concern the ongoing missile related cooperation between Pakistan and China. Government is alert to *a'* developments that have a bearing on India's security.

(c) Government has been conveying to the international community its own assessment of the continuing nuclear and missile co-operation between China and Pakistan and has taken up this matter with the concerned countries.

Outcome of foreign Minister's visits to Foreign Countries

532. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Sri Lanka and some other foreign countries during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of his visit abroad, nature of discussion with his counterparts/outcome thereof; and

(c) whether any Agreements were signed between India and other countries; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed below.

Statement

Country/ Dates of visit	Nature of discussion and outcome	Agreement signed, if any
1	2	3
Iran (May 19 23, 2000)	Attended 11th meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission, held discussion on bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international 'issues.	An MOU was signed to establish a Joint-Committee on the supply of Iranian Gas to India

1	2	3
Sri Lanka (June 11-12, 2000)	Discussions took place in the context of strengthening the close and friendly relations between India and Sri Lanka. With regard to ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka the talks focused on measures to achieve a lasting peace to a political settlement within the framework of the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka in a manner in which it would meet the aspirations of all communities. India offered to extend a credit line of US$ 100 million. Possibilities of Sri Lanka purchasing wheat, rice and sugar on counter trade basis were also discussed.	Nil.
Singapore (June 1-3 2000)	EAM met PM, Dy. PM and Foreign Minister and held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues. Both countries agreed to work more closely for promoting stability in the region as well as enhance cooperation on , subjects like terrorism, sea-piracy, illegal trafficking of small arms and narcotics. Both sides also reviewed the follow up on the visit of Singapore PM to India in January 2000. EAM also addressed the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies on 'India and ASEAN Security Paradigm AD 2000'.	Nil.

Country/ Dates of visit	Nature of discussion and. outcome	Agreement signed, if any
I	2	3
Italy (January 11-12, 2000)	Discussions were held with Italian FM on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and contemporary relevance. The discussions led to an enhanced understanding of Indias' concerns on various issues, including on developments in the neighbourhood, cross border and international terrorism, drug trafficking, disarmament and security related issues.	An Agreement on Tourism Cooperation was signed.
United Kingdom (January 13-14, 2000)	Discussions took place on bilateral relations, issues relating to holding of India-U.K. Round Table, regional and international issues of mutual concern were discussed.	Nil
Portugal (March 31-April 1, 2000)	Discussions were held with the Poriugues Foreign Minister covering bilateral matters, preparations for the first-ever India-EU Summit, regional issues and global issues of mutual concern.	Nil
Portugal (June 27—29)	EAM accompanied the PM for the first-ever India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on 28 June.	Agreement on Economic & Industrial Cooperation between India and Portugal was signed.

1	2	3
Nigeria (March 27—29, 2000)	EAM co-chaired the 3rd Session of the Indo-Nigerian Joint Commission. Held extensive discussions with President Ohansanjo and the Nigerian Foreign Minister on bilateral relations in general and economic cooperation in particular.	Nil
Russian Federation (June 22—24, 2000)	EAM held discussions on regional, international issues of mutual concern with Foreign Minister of Russian Federation. EAM met the President of the Russian Federation, Secretary of the Security Council and Dy-PM and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission. Discussions took place on the forthcoming visit of the President of Russian Federation to India. EAM also visited Sr. Petersburg and addressed the Faculty of International Relations.	Nil
Israel & PNA Territories (June 30-July 3, 2000)	EAM exchanged views on important global, regional as well as bilateral issues and discussed ways and means to further consolidate and diversify India's mutually beneficial interaction with these countries.	Nil
Warsaw (June 25—27 2000)	EAM visited Warsaw to participate in the Ministerial Conference on Towards a Community of Democracies' of which India was one of the co-convenors. India played a significant role in finalising the	Nil

1	2	3
	declaration and the final communique of the Conference. The declaration rejects ethnic and religious hatred, violence; and extremism; and lists state sponsored, cross-border and other forms of terrorism amongst transnational challenges to democracy	
Cartagena (March, 2000)	EAM attended the Ministerial Conference of Non-aligned countries. As a result of India's efforts the Final Document of the XIIth NAM Ministerial Meeting adopted a call for restoration, before the next OAU Summit, of constitutional legality in States whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means and also strongly recommend that this issue may be considered by NAM at its next Summit.	Nil

Increasing desertion in MEA Offices Abroad

533. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of desertions are increasing in the offices of MEA abroad;

(b) if so, how many cases have been registered, so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent desertions?